

Grammar L4GLO4

Unreal Conditionals

Learning Outcome 4: Conditionals: third & mixed conditionals
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NOTICING A Read the sentences. Answer the questions below.

1. If we had moved to Canada when I was a child, I would have a Canadian accent now.
2. He would have got a better grade for the project if he had spent more time on it.
3. If they were really my friends, they wouldn't have said those things about me.

Which sentence ...

- a. gives the results in the past of a different situation in the past? _____
- b. gives the results in the present of a different situation in the past? _____
- c. gives the results in the past of a different situation in the present? _____

Unreal Conditionals

You use the unreal conditional with the structure *if* + past perfect, *would have* + past participle to imagine a different past. This type of unreal conditional gives the results in the past of a change in the past.

Other unreal conditionals mix tenses and the times that the parts of the sentence refer to. For example:

You use the structure *if* + past perfect, *would* + infinitive to imagine how a change in the past would have a result in the present.

You use the structure *if* + simple past, *would have* + past participle to imagine how a different situation in the present would mean that the past was different too.

1. If Harry _____ (score) the penalty, we wouldn't have lost the match.
2. I _____ (buy) more tea this morning if I had known you were going to come over.
3. If I _____ (not stay) in the sun for so long, I wouldn't feel sick now.
4. If we hadn't listened carefully, we _____ (not understand) the instructions.
5. If my dad _____ (not have to) work, he would have loved to have joined us.
6. I would have told you that wasn't a good idea if you _____ (ask) me.
7. If my parents had invested in that company 20 years ago, they _____ (be) rich now.
8. If the train _____ (be) on time, I wouldn't have been late for my meeting.

1. Think about three things that have happened to you or that you have done in your life up to now.
2. Make notes on the possible effects of these things not having happened.
3. Now think about three things that didn't happen to you or that you didn't do.
4. Make notes on the possible effects of these things really having happened.
5. Use your notes to write unreal conditional sentences.

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